



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MARCH 20, 2013

Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA, Commissioner, 860-509-7101

Senate Bill 1066 - An Act Concerning The Certificate of Need Process

The Department of Public Health opposes Senate Bill 1066.

The Department does not oppose the addition of the new criteria as suggested in Section 1. However, in order to make the language consistent with the existing criteria, the Department suggests wording the new criteria as follows: "(10) Whether the applicant has satisfactorily demonstrated how the proposed project is consistent with the overall goals of federal healthcare reform."

With respect to Section 2, the Department opposes the addition of language to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a-639a(d) requiring the automatic approval of a Certificate of Need ("CON") application if a decision is not rendered within a certain time period.

The suggested revision is against public policy. CON programs are aimed at improving access to health care services as well as restraining health care costs. Laws authorizing such programs are one mechanism by which state governments seek to reduce overall health and medical costs. To allow for the automatic approval of a CON application based solely on the extinguishment of a time deadline would deprive OHCA of the opportunity to make a thorough review of the request contained in the CON application, thereby usurping OHCA's authority and diminishing its mission to ensure cost-effective access to health care services for the public.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

*Phone: (860) 509-7269, Fax: (860) 509-7100
Telephone Device for the Deaf (860) 509-7191
410 Capitol Avenue - MS # 13GRE
P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134
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